

WATERBORNE OUTBREAKS

I. IDENTIFICATION

- A. **CLINICAL DESCRIPTION:** Clinical symptoms vary with the etiologic agent. Bacterial, parasitic or viral agents may cause diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, dermatitis or respiratory illness. Chemical agents may cause gastrointestinal, neurologic or respiratory symptoms, visual impairment or other clinical manifestations.
- B. **REPORTING CRITERIA:** Laboratory isolation of an etiologic agent from ill individuals and/or from the suspected water source.
- C. **KENTUCKY CASE DEFINITION:** An incident in which two or more persons experience similar illness:
- After ingestion or use of water intended for drinking, or after exposure to water intended for recreational use, **AND**
 - Epidemiologic evidence implicates the water as the source of the illness.

II. ACTIONS REQUIRED / PREVENTION MEASURES

- A. **KENTUCKY DISEASE SURVEILLANCE REQUIRES PRIORITY NOTIFICATION:** REPORT TO THE LOCAL OR STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT within 1 business day upon recognition of a case or suspected case.
- B. **EPIDEMIOLOGY REPORTS REQUESTED:**
1. Kentucky Reportable Disease Form – EPID 200 (Rev. Jan/03).
- C. **PUBLIC HEALTH INTERVENTIONS:**
- Source investigation by LHD.
 - Specific intervention dependent upon etiologic agent.
 - Determine if case is outbreak-related and notify Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning.

III. CONTACTS FOR CONSULTATION

- A. **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, COMMUNICABLE DISEASE BRANCH:** 502-564-3261
- B. **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BRANCH:** 502-564-4856
- C. **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, SURVEILLANCE AND HEALTH DATA BRANCH:** 502-564-3418

IV. RELATED REFERENCES

1. Chin, James, ed. (See index for specific diseases). In: Control of Communicable Diseases Manual. 17th ed. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2000.